

# 4-H volunteers clean up grounds

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

"To Make the Best Better" — that is the 4-H motto and the members of the Luzerne County 4-H Horse Clubs are doing their best to fulfill that motto.

Beginning in June of 1985, they came up with a plan to help improve the grounds and buildings of the Luzerne County Fall Fair and, without hesitation, members, their parents and other interested persons willing to volunteer their services, began leveling the grounds, put in fill, cleared away stones and rocks and started the construction of a grandstand, food pavilion and a show ring.

Parents and volunteers donated the use of heavy equipment, moved tons and tons of dirt, cut down brush and trees, welded paint brushes and did whatever necessary to have the grandstand and pavilion finished before the date of the Fair in September.

If other jobs were too much for children or parents, there were always plenty of stones and rocks to be picked up from inside the show ring area. This was an important task in order to make it as nearly impossible as they could to prevent an animal from being injured.

Poles were set around the show ring area and volunteers began constructing the sections of fence which was to be attached to the poles in order to enclose the large, oval ring.

Other poles were raised for the construction of the two-story grandstand, made of concrete blocks and wood which houses a first floor meeting room, and a second floor including a large balcony for viewing. The pavilion is under a long and wide roof which protects those partaking of refreshments from the weather whether it be rain or too hot sun. Paint brushes went continu-

ously in July and August as parents, club members and others worked diligently to have everything shipshape by the end of August.

Thanks to the many persons who donated their time, materials and equipment this was possible and when the Fair opened, the 1985 goal was accomplished.

The Luzerne County Clubs also contributed to the work financially by each group being assessed a certain amount. A plaque on the side of the grandstand lists the names of those who assisted in making the 1985 project possible.

Among these are Valley Seeding Co., Lingertot Container Service, Hillside Farms, Mozip Screen Printing Co., Jack Williams Tires, Sivers Farm Equipment, Luzerne Lumber, Don Wesley, Daron Block, Dallas Horseshoe Club, Howard "Duke" Isaacs, Lehman Power Equipment, Valley Rental, B.G. Coon, Hannigan Electric, Harris Associates, Town House Restaurant, Sev's Signs, Back To Basics, and R.N. Fitch & Sons.

In 1986, the County's 4-H Horse Clubs have set another goal — the construction of a barn and an Arts & Crafts building, for the Fair.

The first poles for the large 58'x110' barn have been set but inclement weather has made it necessary to have some of the post holes re-drilled, holding back progress on the building which will house 42 to 44 stalls.

Dana Campbell, Harold "Butch" Grey, Tom Raspen and Ken Strittmatter are members of the grounds committee in charge of directing the volunteers. Strittmatter explained that there is a lot of work to be done before the opening of the 1986 Fair and many volunteers will be needed to assist the club members and their parents.

"We welcome all the volunteers who are willing to lend us a hand or help in obtaining materi-



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## Clearing stones

Members of 4-H Riding Clubs spent last Monday night clearing stones from the show ring in preparation for an upcoming horseshow. Left to right are Tammy Strittmatter, Donna Strittmatter, Amy McLaughlin and Kim McLaughlin.

als or lending equipment," said Strittmatter.

The barn will be used for overnight boarding during the fair and for shows. The arts and craft building will be for the use of displaying the fair entries properly and keeping them under lock and key while they are on display during Fair Week.

Strittmatter's wife, Donna, is president of the Luzerne County 4-H Horse Clubs. Harold "Butch" Grey is organizational leader and Wendy Martin is leader of the Riding Ho 4-H Club. Ken and Donna Strittmatter are leaders of the Country 4-H Horse Club.

The improvements to date has helped improve the rating of the fair and last year's improvements helped the rating to go to an "A" from a "C".

When all the improvements are completed, the goal is to have one large, level midway with everything on that one midway, including rides, stands, shows, everything.

Volunteers can help the 4-H and Fall Fair officials achieve the New Look-one large midway, all wires and piping underground, and two new arts and crafts buildings all of which after the Fair will be used for Back Mountain recreation.

# Window display features antiques

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

Antique-lovers have an opportunity to admire some of the variety of antiques and collectibles for this year's Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, now on display in Besecker's Real Estate Office window and also in the library.

Those items displayed in the library are items contributed by the various antique dealers in the area while the variety of items in the window on Main Street, Dallas, are pieces contributed by individuals or purchased by Co-chairpersons Ernest Ashbridge and Elizabeth Covert, or members of the antique committee.

Among the various pieces displayed in the window are a Hitchcock style chair with a rush seat (one of a set of four); Tiffany type style lamp donated by Kashmark and Marshall; small Bristol vase; blue decorated crock; copper vase; purple velvet victorian dress; white wicker potty chair; bride doll made by the late Mrs. Newman; one-drawer cherry stand; lamp made from an old candle mold; and a handmade grapevine wreath.

These are only a few of the items to be sold over the auction block during this year's auction which

opens Wednesday, July 9, on the grounds behind the library located on Huntsville Road, Dallas.

Chairman Ashbridge stated that the auction will have a new "face lift" this year with a lovely barn-type building with a storage area for antiques and also a roof-topped auction block.

Ashbridge, who has been working on the antiques committee for the past 25 years, reported that he and Mrs. Covert started in January searching for antiques and collectibles suitable for the library auction. They have been fortunate in securing some unusual pieces but still need donations of antiques, collectibles, new goods or money.

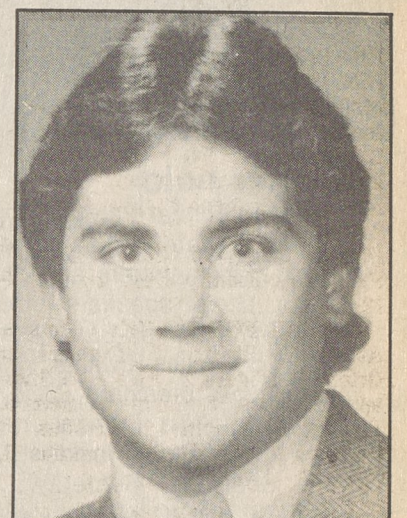
The monetary contributions are greatly appreciated because each year the purchase price of antiques increases and the chairpersons and their committee members are finding it more and more difficult to obtain them.

Ashbridge, who is currently president of the Library Board, has served as chairman of the antique committee five times. His wife, Betty Ashbridge, assists the antiques committee in any way that she can.

The library is supported through the proceeds of the annual auction and is dependent upon their friends in the surrounding communities.



RICHARD HOLTHAUS



RYAN HOLTHAUS

# Brothers honored

Richard Holthaus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holthaus, 11 Norton Ave., Dallas, has accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy and will leave July 1 for five weeks basic training before starting classes in late August.

Holthaus, who graduated from Dallas Senior High School, Friday, June 13, was nominated for the appointment by U.S. Senator Paul Kanjorski and was notified of his acceptance, April 11, 1986. Holthaus accepted the appointment, April 30, after visiting Arizona State University.

While in high school, Richard was a member of the National Honor Society and vice president of the Society during his Senior year. He was co-captain and two-year letterman of the golf team, vice-president of the Junior Class, editor and photographer of the yearbook in his senior year and a member of the Junior Class Steering Committee.

He was also a member of the varsity wrestling team, tennis team and the chess club.

Richard is the grandson of Mary Holthaus, Parsons; and Michael Belak, Mountaintop.

The National Secondary Education Council announced recently that Ryan Holthaus has been named an Academic All-America. The NSEC has established the Academic All-American Scholar Award Program in order to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the Adademic disciplines.

The Academic All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or better grade point average. Only Scholars selected by a secondary school instructor, counselor, or other qualified sponsor are accepted. These scholars are also eligible for other awards given by the NSEC. These are awards few students can ever hope to attain.

Holthaus, who attends Dallas High School, was nominated for this National Award by Paul Brown-Phys Ed Teacher and Assistant Football Coach. Ryan will appear in the Academic All-American Scholar Directory, which is published nationally.

Ryan is the son of Ruth and Richard Holthaus.

# Inmates run for charity

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Approximately 200 inmates at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas last Saturday joined in with prisoners from other institutions around the state in the Sixth Annual Pennsylvania Prison Runathon for Alternatives to Incarceration of Youth.

The inmates, estimated at 1,000 overall, ran within prison walls at their respective locations to help raise money for the Big Brother-Big Sister Programs across the Commonwealth.

Last year 1,053 inmates raised \$8,866 for the program. The Chase facility, in which a number of the runners ran the length of a 26-mile-385 yard marathon, will donate its proceeds to the Volunteers for Youth of Schuylkill County Inc. of Pottsville.

The runathon was originally run exclusively at the State Correctional Institute at Rockview before branching out to other facilities throughout Pennsylvania. Prisons in New Jersey will soon be following the Pennsylvania format with a run of their own on June 28.

The runathons are coordinated by inmate runathon committees under the direction of Activities Managers for the institutions. Community sponsorship is provided by the Voluntary Action Center of Centre County in State College, Pa.

"Inmates in our prisons have been telling us that if we want to do something about crime, we should provide good role models to work with problem youth," Marie Hamilton, director of VAC and Chairperson of the Sponsor Committee says. "Many inmates feel they would not be in prison if they would have had positive reinforcement when they were young."

Because of the positive aspects of the event, a National Prison Runathon is being considered. The occasion not only provides an opportunity for inmates to do something positive to help benefit society, it also provides the inmates and the institution staff a positive goal for which they can work together.

Among the celebrity participants in this year's event were State Rep. Lynn Herman and Judge Charles Brown, Jr., president judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Centre County.

Contributions for the 1986 Runathon are being accepted at the Voluntary Action Center, 427 S. Allen Street, State College, Pa., 16801 with checks made payable to the "Pennsylvania Prison Runathon." Contributions are tax deductible and 100 per cent of all contributions will go to help youth.



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## Food collected

'Jesus - I love you' was the theme of the recently held Vacation Bible School at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Approximately 60 youngsters between the ages of three and 13, attended the five day program. The special project of the Vacation Bible School was to collect food for the needy of our area - numerous items of food and over \$100 were donated towards the food bank. The teachers for Vacation Bible School were Edith Pillarella, Beth Faerber, Marianne Popielarz, Ann Camp, Linda Burkhardt, and Mollie Phillips while Dorothy Oltz, Michelle Lanckwarden, Jennifer Steuben, Angie Hosey, Hillary Lewis, Melissa Billington, Melanie Coscia, Jenny Rosckowff, Christine Coscia, and Vera Williams served as assistants. Refreshments were handled by Elaine Flint while Greg Steuben was in charge of recreation. Catherine Bolinski conducted the music program accompanied by Dana Dungey. Diane Dreier was the coordinator. Reverend Andrew Pillarella is the pastor of Trinity United Presbyterian Church.



## Flag presented

Congressman Paul Kanjorski presented the Harveys Lake Lions with an American Flag, on Sunday, June 15, at Hansons Park, Harveys Lake. Shown in photo accepting the flag are, from left, Joe Nielson, Ron DeBalko, Homer Baker, President; Bill Gallagher, Past President; Congressman Kanjorski and Carl Schreiner.

# Entertainment

Country-western music is enjoyed by many in the area, especially by people from the communities of Dallas, Lehman, Orange, Vernon, Centermoreland, Falls and Tunkhannock.

Square dances are not as prevalent today as in the past, but they still are a lot of fun. Bands playing country-western music are



DEBBY WYSOCKI

not as numerous as rock and polka bands, but there are good ones as "Country Memories," "Country Kings," and "Touch of Country."

Probably the best-known of the country-western bands locally is a band called Northeast Country. Northeast Country plays a wide range of country music. Members of the group are individually talented musicians. Jack Smith, a very versatile vocalist, plays lead guitar. Jack can sing old ballads, new ones and many variations of western swing. Mickey Reed on drums might not sing, but he brings his inimitable sense of humor along to keep everyone in high spirits. Carl J. Eichorn, on rhythm guitar, brings you the "oldies but goodies" of country music.

The youngest member of Northeast Country is Mike Smith. Mike began his singing career with rock bands as "The Teens," "The Wall of Sound," and "Museum" before making the transition to country-western. "Binky," as he is called, plays bass guitar and sings everything from the Beatles and Bee Gees to Elvis and Conway.

The group is a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Country-Western and Bluegrass Association. It is an association

founded to promote country-western and bluegrass music. The Northeastern Pennsylvania

Country-Western and Bluegrass Association also encourages good fellowship among musicians and associates, and provides a forum for the discussion of matters pertaining to country music. It holds benefit jamborees throughout the year. The jamborees provide the means to assist either a worthy person or organization through monetary donations.

Each year the association sponsors a Country Music Awards Banquet. Northeast Country has topped more than its share of awards through the years.

Jack Smith, involved with country music for over 25 years, has been honored with The Best Musician Award and The Best Performer Award among others. Carl J. Eichorn has been recognized with The Pioneer Award for more than 20 years in country music, while Mickey Reed has been acknowledged for his efforts in promoting country music.

Since 1981, Mike "Binky" Smith has collected a large number of country-western music awards including the coveted Best Male Singer Award.

Northeast Country has won so many such awards so often that a special "Northeast Country Month" was once declared in their honor by Mayor Thomas V. McLaughlin of Wilkes-Barre. That is testament to the quality of music, lovers of country-western music, are rendered by the four men known collectively as Northeast Country.

Undoubtedly, country and western music is alive and well in Northeastern Pennsylvania!

(Debby Wysocki is the entertainment writer for The Dallas Post. Her column appears weekly.)